This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 2 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service was launched with the purpose of giving the true facts about the activities of the American Federation of Labor and labor generally, and to counteract misrepresentations of labor and its activities by the daily press, which is largely controlled by reactionary financial interests.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

All Government without the consent of the governed is the very definition of slavery.—Lincoln.

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WHOLE NO. 1474 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1939. — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer — VOL. 29, NO. 28

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

There used to be a time when the WPA was just a leaf-raking and grass-manicuring enterprise. The public didn't like it. They considered it a waste of their money. Demands grew for "useful" projects. These demands were encouraged by Mayors and local governments. They wanted a new school or a new airport or a new municipal stadium. They could get these projects financed by the Public Works Administration but that agency required municipalities to put up 45 per cent of the cost. Trying to save their own money at the Federal expense, the municipalities dropped for the WPA to handle these projects. Then it wouldn't cost the local governments anything.

Well, they succeeded. The result has been the gradual decline and practical demise of the Public Works Administration. Furthermore it has brought about the transformation of the WPA from a boon-doggling outfit to a public works agency.

Now the PWA by law and by policy paid prevailing wages on all its projects. When the WPA started going in for permanent public works a prevailing wage provision was also written into the relief act. Union labor cooperated to the fullest degree in the WPA program.

That is where the situation was when Congress began considering the new WPA bill for the current fiscal year. A deadlock Congress stalled to the last minute. Then the House passed a haywire bill eliminating the prevailing wage clause among other things.

Fearful of the consequences, the American Federation of Labor exerted all its pressure on the Senate to restore the prevailing wage. And the Senate did so, unanimously.

What Caused the Strikes

The differing House and Senate bills were sent to conference. The conference committee just a few hours before the legal deadline reported out a hodge-podge bill with the prevailing wage clause dropped again. Because of the emergency and with the prospect of having to close down the whole relief program unless new funds were appropriated immediately, both Houses hastily adopted the faulty measure. It became the law when the President signed it.

What happened? Within a few days union men on WPA started to quit. They were not ordered out. They just stopped. Their action was entirely local and spontaneous in character. They were just following the traditional principle that a union man, himself, will not work on a job where union wages for anyone.

These men are not striking against the Government. They are loyal, law-abiding American workers. They are fighting for a principle that is almost a religion to them. They refuse to have the wage rates built up by collective action through years of struggle and sacrifice destroyed.

Is the attitude of Congress as easily understandable? Is it in any sense logical? Let's see.

Under the Walsh-Healey Act, which is the law of the land, the Government says it will only purchase goods produced by labor which is paid prevailing wages by private industry. How can the Government then refuse to pay prevailing wages on its own work?

Under the Davis-Bacon Act, which is the law of the land, the Government is committed to the policy of paying prevailing wages in the construction of Federal buildings. How can the Government then logically contend that it is wrong to pay prevailing wages on WPA building projects?

More Questions

These questions and others were certainly raised at the meeting of union leaders called by President Green to consider the grave situation. Is the Government, asked one speaker, going to the steel mills and demanding a dollar's worth of steel for thirty-five cents? Is it asking the lumber manufacturers for a dollar's worth of lumber for thirty-five cents? Then how can it reasonably ask the union workman on WPA to furnish a dollar's worth of labor for thirty-five cents?

Yes, say the WPA Administrators, but the WPA is not a business, it's a relief program. Is it? That is an important point. In fact, the WPA is now largely a public works program. It is constructing projects costing as much as forty million dollars. How can that be called relief? It isn't. It's public works. And being public works, the Government should and must maintain the prevailing wage principle.

Why can't Congress be sensible about this matter? It is becoming increasingly apparent that the combination of relief and public works in one program won't mix. Then why not separate them? Why not establish a purely relief program on the one hand and a separate public works program on the other? Unless this is done, or the prevailing wage is restored in the present hybrid WPA program, the whole experiment is doomed.

(Released by the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service)

Abolition of Prevailing Wage Rates On WPA Projects Condemned by Green

Tells Conference of Union Representatives the American Federation of Labor Believed the Federal Government Was Committed to Maintaining the Prevailing Wage; "We Are Firmly Convinced," He Said, "That the Recognition, Application and Continuation of This Principle by Government is Necessary to the Further Maintenance and Preservation of Wage Levels Established as a Result of Much Sacrifice on the Part of Organized Labor in Private Industry."

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Condemning disapproval of the action of the United States Congress excluding the prevailing wage rate provision from the WPA relief appropriation bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1, and substituting therefor the so-called security wage for 130 hours work per month on WPA projects, which means lower hourly wages and longer hours for all skilled workers employed on such projects, featured the statement presented by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, to the conference of representatives of national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, in the assembly room of the Washington Hotel here on July 12.

The conference was called by Mr. Green to consider the emergency created by abolition of the prevailing wage provision and the policy to be applied by the Federation, in the assembly room of the Washington Hotel here on July 12.

The text of Mr. Green's statement follows:

"Representatives of National and International Unions Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor:

"You have been invited to attend this conference, for the purpose of dealing with an acute economic situation which arose out of the application of the so-called security wage provisions of the WPA relief measure recently enacted by Congress.

"The importance of the economic problem to be considered, and the serious situation which has been created as a result of the enactment of the so-called security wage by Congress justifies the call for this conference.

"The facts of the situation are as follows:

"The WPA relief measure which expired on June 30th, 1939, contained a provision which provided for the payment of the prevailing rate of wages upon WPA construction projects. While difficulties were encountered in the application of this provision on WPA building construction projects, nevertheless, it worked in a reasonably satisfactory way.

House of Representatives Abolished Prevailing Wage

"The new WPA relief measure was introduced at this session of Congress. The administrators appointed by the Government appeared at closed sessions of the meetings of the Committee on Appropriations, making their recommendations and expressing their point of view regarding the provisions of this injustice, and we are determined now to do all that lies within our power to lift it and remove it.

Prevailing Wage Rate Is Necessary To Protect Wage Levels

"The officers and members of the American Federation of Labor assumed that the Government was thoroughly committed to the establishment and maintenance of the prevailing rate of wage principle.

"It was accepted and incorporated in the Walsh-Healey Act.

"It is applicable to those employed by private contractors on government work and in carrying forward government construction projects as provided for in the Davis-Bacon Act.

"It has been applied by the administrators of WPA relief measures during the distressing days of unemployment through which we have passed.

"The organizations of the American Federation of Labor are to it that the prevailing rate of wage principle is applied in practically all cities and towns throughout the country on projects originated and launched by municipal and State governments.

"We have always regarded the application of the prevailing rate of wage principle as fundamental and vital to the membership of the American Federation of Labor.

"We are firmly convinced that the recognition, application and continuation of this principle by government is necessary to the further maintenance and preservation of wage levels established as a result of much sacrifice on the part of organized labor in private industry.

Congress Should Promptly Restore Prevailing Wage Rate

"The solution of the problem presented to this conference lies with Congress. I know you who are in attendance at this conference share with me my firm conviction that an amendment providing for the payment of the prevailing rate of wage on WPA projects should be promptly adopted by the Congress of the United States.

"We are firmly convinced that the recognition, application and continuation of this principle by government is necessary to the further maintenance and preservation of wage levels established as a result of much sacrifice on the part of organized labor in private industry.

"Strikes on WPA projects reflect the state of mind of WPA workers. They have been ignorant of the basic character. They have never been ordered by the American Federation of Labor, because we fully recognize the fact that the remedy lies with Congress, rather than through strikes on WPA projects.

"It was deemed advisable and necessary in view of the existing situation to have recited, that the representatives of the national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor be called into conference for the purpose of expressing the sentiment of the workers throughout the nation as you know it and understand it, and for the purpose of calling upon Congress to apply a remedy to the existing economic situation through the enactment of a prevailing rate of wage section to the WPA relief measure."

10,600,000 ARE HIT BY UNEMPLOYMENT

Constant Installation of Job-Destroying Devices by Employers Is Reducing the Need for Working Men and Women, A. F. of L. Declares.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The number of working men and women in the United States is constantly increasing. They, together with the millions of other workers, must have employment. They need them to buy the necessaries of life for themselves and their families.

But the constant introduction of inventions and methods to displace human labor enables employers to extort a much larger output from the workers who are kept on their jobs.

Consequently, although business recovery continues, those who own and operate industry, and install job-destroying machinery, have not as yet re-employed the working men and women thrown into the unemployed army last winter.

And the jobless workers in the United States now number 10,600,000!

This is the appalling fact stressed by the American Federation of Labor in its monthly report on unemployment and employment.

"With termination of the coal stoppage and settlement of other disputes," the Federation said, "there were four hundred thousand more at work by the end of May than in mid-April. Part of this gain was due to increased work on farms (125,000), in building, retail trade, public utilities, railroads and service industries. The greater part was due to the return of more than 250,000 coal miners to the mines.

Last Winter's Unemployed Still Lack Jobs

"Our official estimate, showing 42,513,000 at work and 10,873,000 employed in mid-May, 1939, does not include all of the miners who have since returned to work, therefore we are additional estimate of about 42,700,000 at work and 10,600,000 unemployed after the operations had been resumed.

"It is cheerful news to note this gain in employment, but when compared with the increase for July last year, when 42,500,000 were at work, we see that American industry, thus far in 1939, has not even regained the level it had attained in last winter's unemployment peak. The number at work now than we were last December; in fact we are worse off, for some 240,000 have been laid off by our working population since that date.

Employers' Need For Workers Steadily Decreases

"While our working population steadily grows, the need for workers in our industries steadily declines.

"National Industrial Conference Board indexes show that production per man hour in our factories this year has been 9 per cent above last year's level for first months. Part of this increase is probably due to the savings which usually occur when production is stepped up, but part are due to labor saving devices, for production per man hour is 3 per cent above 1937 when the pace of production was higher than today.

"Recent recoveries have consistently shown that employment lags behind production and it takes a constantly higher level of business activity to put the same number to work.

"It is encouraging that there are 1,100,000 more at work now than there were in May last year when the 1938 recession was at its worst. But when we consider that, of the 3,500,000 laid off since 1937, less than one third are back at work a year later, the prospect is not so bright. Meanwhile industrial production (by

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A. F. of L. Takes WPA Wage Cut To the President and Congress

Conference of Over Two Hundred National and International Union Representatives in Washington Declares Unrelenting Opposition to Pay Slashes Reaching Fifty Per Cent Resulting From Provision in Relief Appropriation Law Abolishing Prevailing Wage Rate on W. P. A. Projects and Demands That the Law Be Amended to Restore the Rate.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Over two hundred belligerent and determined representatives of national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor met in the assembly room of the Washington Hotel here in response to a call issued by William Green, president of the Federation, convening the union leaders of the Nation's capital to consider ways and means for protecting the organized labor from the profound assault made on wage standards by the action of Congress omitting the prevailing wage rate provision from the section of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1939 covering work coming under the Works Progress Administration.

After listening to a statement by President Green giving the history of the prevailing wage rate on W.P.A. projects and voicing the determination of the American Federation of Labor to protect the workers against the injustice inflicted by the abolition of the prevailing wage rate in the current appropriation bill, various union representatives told of the nation-wide protests of union members against the slash in wages for W.P.A. workers caused by the action of Congress.

The conference then authorized President Green to appoint a committee to draft a report covering the emergency and outlining the course of action to be taken to prevent the continuation of the wage slashes.

The committee named by Mr. Green consisted of Harry C. Bates, of the Bricklayers; Michael J. Colleran of the Plasterers; Matthew Woll of the Photo Engravers; George Q. Lynch of the Pattern Makers; William Kelley of the Carpenters; George Meany of the New York State Federation of Labor; G. M. Bugniazet of the Electrical Workers; George Masterton of the Plumbers; Joseph P. Moreschi of the Hod Carriers; John P. Burke of the Pulp and Sulphite Workers.

The report of the Committee summarized the importance of maintaining the trade union wage structure, declared that hitherto the Government by legislation had supported the prevailing wage rate and insisted that the continuance of W.P.A. projects was necessary to protect the interests of organized labor.

Fully realizing that the way to remedy the injustice was to secure the repeal of the provision in the current relief appropriation act abolishing the prevailing wage on W.P.A. projects and the adoption of an amendment restoring it, the conference authorized President Green to appoint a committee to present labor's grievance to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The committee appointed by Mr. Green consisted of Harry Bates, president of the International Union of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union of America; Daniel J. Tracy, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America; George Q. Lynch, president of the Pattern Makers League of North America; John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor; I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, and Herbert Rivers, secretary-treasurer of the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor.

Following is the text of the report of the special committee which was unanimously adopted by the conference:

"To the 76th Congress of the United States and the public have evidenced deep interest and manifested grave concern in the spontaneous strikes which have taken place within the past few days upon W. P. A. jobs in various parts of the country.

"These protests which have been against wage reductions have been erroneously interpreted as strikes against the Government when as a matter of fact they have been the manifestations on the part of wage earners to maintain the standards of work and of wages built up through years of effort.

"The very lifeblood of a trade union structure is the standard union rate of wages.

"It is perfectly understandable that our trade unions should use all of their economical strength by every legitimate means to maintain their respective standards of rates of wages on public as well as private enterprises.

"The president of the American Federation of Labor, recognizing that insurmountable difficulties would be presented by this alarming situation and in order that a definite policy be approved for the guidance of organized labor as represented by the American Federation of Labor, has called this conference of the officers and representatives of national and international unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

Spontaneous Protests Against Wage Cuts

"It should be evident to all concerned that wage earners in general and particularly those who have been organized for many years, do not lay down their tools unless some situation vitally affecting their interests has arisen which cannot be adjusted through the method of negotiations, conciliation and arbitration.

"The cause for these nation-wide protests, these spontaneous strikes, was an arbitrary increase in the hours of work for labor on W. P. A. work resulting in the reduction of hourly wages running over 50 per cent in the hourly rate.

"This cutting of wages in half by the increasing of working hours was the result of action taken by the conferees of the Senate and of the House of Representatives working under a so-called emergency situation—the necessity of having W. P. A. appropriations made so that W. P. A. workers might be continued in their employment on July 1.

"Previously the House of Representatives had passed the W. P. A. measure which eliminated the prevailing wage provisions. The Senate thereafter had passed a measure which contained the prevailing wage provision. Pressure was brought to bear on Congress to enact the W. P. A. appropriation bill before midnight June 30.

"This tremendous pressure for immediate action by Congress prevented adequate discussion of serious consequences that would follow immediately should the provisions of the prevailing wage be eliminated from the Act.

Government Has Hitherto Approved Prevailing Wage Rate

"This action taken by Congress was seemingly a violation of the principles covering wage earners on all other Government projects which had heretofore been established by Congress.

"Congress had heretofore enacted, and the President signed, the Bacon-Davis Act which provides for the prevailing wage on work done by the Government.

"It enacted, and the President approved, the Walsh-Healey Act which provides for the payment of the prevailing wage on all manufactured goods purchased by the U. S. Government on all orders amounting to $10,000 or over.

"It is clearly evident from the foregoing that the policy of the Government up to this time has been to establish, formulate and administer the labor policy so as to protect the workers in the prevailing wages es-

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International Federation of Trade Unions Bans Russian Labor Group

Peace Front Need, Jewish Aid, Sympathy for Chinese, and Opposition to Aggressor Nations Stressed at Final Session in Zurich.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The eighth Congress of the International Federation of Trade Unions, at its meeting at Zurich, Switzerland, on July 7, rejected by 46 votes to 37 the resolution presented by the British Trades Union Congress calling for a renewal of the membership invitation to the labor movement of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The opposition to the invitation was led by delegates from the United States, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The twelve votes of the American Federation of Labor, cast by Robert J. Watt, the A. F. of L. delegate, finally proved to be the deciding factor.

Not only did the Congress reject the proposal for a new invitation to

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Many WPA Projects For Repairing And Rebinding Old Textbooks Ended

Haggerty Says 10,000 Inexperienced Persons Were Employed on This Work While Thousands of Skilled Bookbinders Were Jobless.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—One of the fields in which WPA projects invaded the work which should have been given to bookbinders is that of repairing and rebinding old school books. During the last few years thousands of dollars of public money has been spent by the WPA for this work. It has recently been stopped, however, by the intervention of John D. Haggerty, president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

In pointing out the extent of this evil Mr. Haggerty said that "10,000 men and women with no experience in the bindery" have been employed on these WPA projects while at the same time "thousands of skilled" of unemployed skilled workmen."

Mr. Haggerty protested against these WPA projects for the repair and rebinding of school books, with the result that the following revision by the WPA on this subject was recently issued:

"This revision provides that projects to repair and/or rebind books for public schools are ineligible. Projects of this type which have already received Presidential approval but have not yet been placed in operation shall not be operated. Active projects engaged in the repair and/or rebinding of public school books shall discontinue this work as soon as other appropriate employment is found for the certified workers engaged in this activity. In no case shall such work be continued after May 31, 1939."

Conference Committee Report Killing Prevailing Wage Rate Passed Both Houses

"On June 30, the bill was referred to a Conference Committee composed of members of the House and the Senate. The following named Congressmen and United States Senators were members of the Conference Committee:

"Managers on the part of the House:

"Edw. T. Taylor, C. A. Woodrum, Lesle Lanham, Thos. S. McMillan, J. Buell Snyder, Emmet O'Neal, Geo. W. Johnson, John Taber, R. B. Wigglesworth, J. J. Lumbertson, John Ditter.

"Managers on the part of the Senate:

"Alva B. Adams, Kenneth McKellar, Carl Hayden, James F. Byrnes, Frederick Hale, J. G. Townsend, Jr.

"They were tremendously disappointed when the Conference Committee finally reported a relief measure from which the prevailing rate of wage section introduced by Senator McCarran, of Nevada, and accepted by the Senate, had been eliminated.

"We have never learned since, and we shall never know why the conferees of the House and Senate agreed to the elimination of the prevailing rate of wage section from the WPA relief measure.

"The conferees submitted a report upon the relief measure on June 30. The WPA relief bill which had been the previous session of Congress expired at midnight on June 30. Apparently, because of this fact, the report of the conference was rushed through both Houses of Congress and presented to the President for Executive approval. The President signed the relief measure on June 30, 1939.

WPA Workers Spontaneously Strike Against Reduced Wage Rates

"Immediately following the approval of the measure, WPA administrators throughout the nation notified all WPA workers of the change in their wage standard as was provided for in the new relief measure.

"This action created a nation-wide protest on the part of WPA workers and the officers and members of American Federation of Labor unions directly affected.

"The workers became thoroughly aroused in the different cities and towns throughout the nation. They protested this reduction in wage rates which was being forced upon them. Strikes occurred in a number of places. All considered felt that a great injustice had been done.

"We diligently endeavored to prevent the imposition of this injustice, and we are determined now to do all that lies within our power to lift it and remove it.

Big Demand For Union Label Catalogue

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, announced that there never was such a demand for the official buyers' guide of his department as there is for the 1939 Union Label Catalogue-Directory.

Orders are pouring in to the Washington headquarters from official of national and international unions, local central bodies, and local unions for copies of this catalogue that contains the lists of organized manufacturers and editions.

A special price of twenty cents per copy in lots of 100 or more has been offered by the department. Single copies are twenty-five cents each.

Several national and international unions are sending copies of the Catalogue-Directory to all officials of their respective labor unions and to all organizers. There is also an increased demand this year from members of women's auxiliaries and union label leagues.

In this unprecedented request for copies continues the Union Label Trades Department will print a second edition.

TELEGRAPHERS GAIN IN WESTERN UNION

Chicago, Ill. (AFLWNS).—One more step towards the building up of a strong A. F. of L. union among the employees of the Western Union Telegraph Company was taken when the company recently agreed to the use of a voluntary check-off system for collection of dues from members of the Commercial Telegraphers Union. Frank B. Powers, president of the C. T. U., said in a statement issued here.

"The Labor Board's certification of the C. T. U. in Washington has been officially recognized by the Western Union and negotiations for an agreement are now in progress," he declared.

"The C. T. U.'s petition for certification of Indianapolis Western Union employees was heard by the Labor Board on June 22, 23 and 24. An early certification by the Board is expected, following the precedent set in the Washington case.

"Two charters are being issued to cover Western Union groups in New York, and considerable progress is also being made in Chicago.

"The C. T. U. will intervene in the San Francisco case, where the C. I. O. is saying the Labor Board has certification.

"Our information is that the C. I. O.'s membership in the Western Union in San Francisco is less than 10 per cent."

EDITORIALS

27,500,000 Workers Covered by Unemployment Compensation

July 1 was an important day for the millions of working men and women in the United States who are deprived of employment and consequently of the right to earn a living for themselves and their families through labor. On that date the job-insurance laws of Illinois and Montana were inaugurated, bringing the program of unemployment compensation established by the Social Security Act into full operation in all parts of the country—in 48 States, the District of Columbia, Alaska and Hawaii.

According to the Social Security Board there are now over 27,500,000 workers in business and industry covered by the nation-wide unemployment compensation program. The extent of this protection against destitution given to the unemployed workers is widened by the Board's statement that "during the 17 months ended May 30 some $360,000,000 in benefits were distributed to insured workers in the benefit-paying States," two payments averaging "about $11 per week for total unemployment and about $5.50 per week for partial unemployment." Although these payments seem to be altogether too small, they may be regarded as a beginning with the probability that more adequate benefits will be provided in the future.

Commenting upon this rapid development of unemployment compensation in the United States, Dr. Gaston Washington Director of the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, Social Security Board, stated:

"In speed and comprehensiveness, the establishment of unemployment compensation programs presents a record of achievement unparalleled in the field of social legislation. Before consideration of the Social Security Act in 1935, only one State—Wisconsin—had an unemployment compensation law. Today this kind of protection is fully established in every State throughout the Nation. During 1938, although the program was just getting under way, about 1,500,000 workers drew benefits, as their right, during varying periods of total or partial unemployment.

"These payments," Mr. Wagenet said, "have gone far toward maintaining purchasing power upon which industry and commerce depend for their existence. As benefit payments go into full effect in the next two years, and as the program, we may look forward to a period of continuing progress in legislative developments and increasingly effective administration."

Needless Slaughter and Injury of Workers

The number of workers killed and injured by industrial accidents continues to be appalling.

According to an official report issued by California, the industrial death roll, in that State was 534 for the calendar year 1938. During the same year, 263,534 injuries to industrial workers were reported.

In Ohio during the month of May 74 workers were killed in the course of their employment, and the number of claims filed with the State during the same month for fatal and non-fatal injuries, and occupational diseases totaled 14,294.

In most of these cases workmen's compensation laws, whose enactment has been secured by organized labor, provided the injured workers and the dependents of the killed workers with modest compensation awards; but no amount of money can really compensate for either death, mutilation, or occupational diseases.

Most of these deaths, injuries, and occupational diseases could be prevented if it were mandatory upon employers to install safety devices that provide one hundred per cent protection against the hazards of employment, and equally mandatory for public authorities to see that such safeguards are operated with one hundred per cent efficiency.

Social Security Board Explains Appeal Right Under Job Insurance

Broad Opportunity is Provided to Secure Review of Decisions Affecting Claims for Unemployment Compensation.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The worker's right of appeal from a decision on his claim for out-of-work benefits under the job-insurance laws, and the steps to take in filing such an appeal, are explained in a statement of rights prepared by the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation of the Social Security Board at the request of organized labor. The Board says in effect:

Opportunity for a fair hearing, before an impartial tribunal, for all workers whose claims for unemployment compensation are denied, is required by the Social Security Act and provided in every State unemployment insurance law. Usually there is an opportunity for a second appeal, before a board of review. Both the first and second appeals may be made without cost to the worker. Finally, if he is still not satisfied, he may take his case to the courts.

Last year more than 13,000 appeals were filed by workers, of which about 7 in every 10 were decided in their favor. Employers may have the same right of appeal, filed nearly 600 appeals, winning about 3 cases in 10.

Appeal Procedure Described

"Most important points to know about appeals," the Board said, "are the following:

"(1) Anyone who is dissatisfied with the decision of his claim has the right to appeal. For example, you may appeal if you are denied benefits on the ground that you have not enough wages to your credit, or that you quit your job without good cause, or that you were discharged for misconduct; or you may appeal if you think the amount of your benefits is less than you are entitled to receive or if the number of weeks during which you will receive them is not correct; or on other grounds.

"(2) Before filing an appeal, however, you should ask the local unemployment compensation office to reexamine your claim and reconsider your case. Sometimes the matter can be adjusted without making an appeal.

"(3) There is always a time limit on appeals. In most States you must file your appeal within 5 days after you are notified of the decision on your claim.

"(4) When you file an appeal, you may submit any facts or claim form which you can obtain from the local office of the State employment service when you filed your claim in the first place, or you may simply write a letter to the office stating that you wish to appeal. You should go to the office and make out the form there if possible, because they will assist you in filling out the blank and will explain about the hearing.

Impartial Tribunal Hears Appeals

"(5) Appeals are heard by an impartial tribunal, provided for in the law. In some States this tribunal is appointed by the board of review, in others by the State unemployment compensation agency. It may consist of one member or more than one. In either case, the member or members of the tribunal must not have had previous connection with the handling of the claim or with the decision which is appealed.

"(6) The hearing is informal, and you can present your case in your own words. You may appear alone or you may be represented by an official or agent of your union, or by an attorney. You or your representative may present facts and witnesses. If you find that witnesses will not attend voluntarily you may ask the appeal tribunal to issue subpenas to compel them to come. The local unemployment compensation office will help you with this, and the subpenas are issued without cost to you and witness fees are paid by the State agency.

Provision for Second Appeals

"All testimony is taken under oath or affirmation, and a stenographic record is made, in case of further appeal. This record is open to you or your representative.

"(7) Under most of the State laws, the decision of an appeal tribunal was not unanimous, you have the right to a second hearing, this time before a board of review. If the decision was unanimous, or if the case was heard by a one-man tribunal, the board of review decides whether there shall be a second hearing.

"(8) For a second appeal, you file application at the local unemployment compensation office as before, and the appeal is usually improperly if duly notified of the date and place of hearing. The board may decide, however, to consider the case entirely on the record of the first hearing. It is your decide to have you and your employer appear personally for argument on the basis of the record. Or it may decide not to hear the interested parties in person at all but merely to allow them to file their points in writing.

"(9) The second appeal decision is final unless you decide to appeal to the courts. Here again there is a time limit, specified in the State unemployment compensation law, and this law also governs the procedure for court review.

"(10) For particulars as to appeals in your own State, inquire at the nearest unemployment compensation office, or write to the State unemployment compensation agency at the State capital."

UNION LABEL LEAGUES URGED BY IOWA LABOR

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—L. M. Orburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, announced that the forty-fifth convention of the Iowa State Federation of Labor, held in June, passed a resolution urging the formation of Union Label Leagues in every city in the State.

The resolution follows:

"Whereas, We feel that the Union Label is one of Organized Labor's greatest weapons—equal to that of the right to strike—an united demand for it by union men and women will compel employers to employ union labor, therefore be it

"Resolved, That this convention instructs the officers of the Iowa State Federation of Labor with the duties of assisting in forming a Union Label League or its equivalent, in each and every city in Iowa that has a Central Trades and Labor Assembly or a Building Trades Council; and be it further

"Resolved, That the principal aim of these Union Label Leagues shall be to promote the demand and use of the Union Label, Shop Card and Working Button; and be it further

"Resolved, That the results of these organizations be activated by a set forth in a separate report to be given at the next annual convention to be held in 1940."

(From July 11 issue of A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Supplement)

Green Calls Parley to Secure Repeal Of W. P. A. Prevailing Wage Abolition

Wage Standards of Organized Labor Are Threatened By Pay Provision of Emergency Relief Appropriation Act For Current Fiscal Year, He Declares.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, called a conference of the presidents of all the national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to be held here July 12 to consider "the WPA strike situation" caused by the elimination in the WPA appropriation act ending the payment of prevailing hourly wages to WPA workers and increasing the number of hours per month for hundreds of thousands of those on WPA rolls.

In a statement announcing the convening of the conference, Mr. Green said:

"The general discontent now manifesting itself throughout the country in strikes on WPA projects is the inevitable consequence of the elimination of the prevailing wage principle in the WPA bill recently adopted by Congress.

"The entire nation, as well as organized labor, accepts the prevailing wage principle as a fixed and permanent policy of the Government. It was incorporated in the Walsh-Healey Act, in the administration of the Works Progress Administration projects and in all relief measures since 1929.

"When the WPA act for the current fiscal year was passed by the House, the prevailing wage clause was omitted. The Senate by a majority of Labor then concentrated its fight in the Senate to have it restored. It was restored by the Senate. Then, for some mysterious reason, it was eliminated in the conference report which was finally adopted by Congress.

"While the WPA Administrator favored the elimination of the prevailing wage principle, we cannot believe he will use the great strength we possess in an effort to prevail upon Congress to amend the WPA Act in connection with the policy that has been consistently maintained for many years by the Government."

General Himes States Veterans' Administration Policy on Unions

Affirms Right of Employes to Organize and Specifies Procedure For Presenting Complaints.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, in a service letter sent to all field stations, discusses relations among the employes of the Veterans' Administration and reaffirms the right of V. A. employes to organize and deal with the management.

The service letter is entitled "Conduct Between Members of and Employee Organizations." The text, in part, follows:

"1. Over the guidance of all employes of the Veterans' Administration there is outlined below the policy of the Veterans' Administration governing contracts between management and employe groups and the method of considering and disposing of such recommendations.

"2. The primary function of the Veterans' Administration is to administer the laws enacted by Congress for the relief of veterans of our armed forces. For the proper fulfillment of this function it is the policy of the Veterans' Administration to deal fairly with all employes and to provide and maintain satisfactory working conditions. It is expected of managers that the claim of the welfare and welfare of employes under their jurisdiction and in turn it is expected of employes that they will efficiently perform the duties of their several offices and that every will efficiently that maximum service will result.

"3. It is the policy of the Veterans' Administration to recognize the right of its employes to organize or join such organizations as they desire, and to deal with these organizations of employes on a cooperative basis. Under this policy the Veterans' Administration stands ready to receive and consider complaints or recommendations for the good of the service which employe organizations may choose to submit, and it is expected that managers will establish an orderly method of receiving and considering complaints and recommendations from organized groups of employes.

Handling Complaints

"4. Complaints or recommendations from employe organizations should be presented to the manager by the designated officers of the organization or by the designated representative or members of the organization and these designated representatives will be employes of the Veterans' Administration. These complaints or recommendations will be submitted in writing. Should it be the desire of the representatives of such organizations to discuss their complaints or recommendations with the manager or his designee, arrangements will periodically be made to grant an interview at the convenience of the manager and the service. Should such interview be scheduled it is the policy of the Veterans' Administration to deal fairly with such designated representative and maintain satisfactory working conditions. It is expected of managers that the claim of the welfare and welfare of employes under their jurisdiction and in turn it is expected of employes that they will efficiently perform the duties of their several offices and that every will efficiently that maximum service will result.

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"5. Discussions between employes and management or employe-management problems may be under such conditions as managers may choose to establish, including the use of stenographic notes will be made of discussion on the points at issue. Generally speaking, it is believed to be good procedure for managers to respond by writing to employe recommendations formally submitted by employe organizations."

J. A. McInerney, Head of A. F. L. Building And Construction Trades Department, Dies

New York, N. Y. (AFLWNS).—Joseph A. McInerney, president of the Building and Construction Trades Department, and a sponsoring member of Labor, died at Midtown Hospital here July 10, after an illness of five months. He was forty-eight years old.

Suffering from a stomach ailment, Mr. McInerney entered the hospital capital three weeks prior to his demise. His condition became critical, but he rallied and was believed to be recovering when the fatal relapse occurred.

Mr. McInerney was born on New York City. He began his career in the labor movement soon after finishing an apprenticeship as a tile and marble setting trade twenty-eight years ago. He rapidly improved his posts in A. F. of L. unions, including the presidency of the Marble Polishers Local which position he was serving when elected president of the Building and Construction Trades Department in 1937.

Mr. McInerney, who was president of the New York Building Trades Council in 1926, engaged in many labor disputes in the city involving, moves to reduce wages. In 1926 he was one of the first union leaders to bring into the open the fight to maintain current wage scales. Until some contractors sought to cut in order to save a building project.

The construction group's president held that to achieve a revival wages of building workers must be kept stationary. He said that any reduction would curtail buying power and reflect in lowered wages. The demand for housing improvements and other building projects.

Mr. McInerney urged the building industry's leaders to seek a more solid business basis for their operations. The industry, he said, had been too largely speculative and had not been organized for a fair return on investments. His suggestion was that contractors and real estate operators take the construction of 200,000 houses costing $5,000 as an immediate goal. This would bring about the employment of 700,000 workers, he said.

HINES OUTLINES WORK OF PA. LABOR BOARD

Harrisburg, Pa. (AFLWNS).—Secretary of Labor and Industry Lewis G. Hines, appointed by Governor Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board on since June 12th, closed 21 cases; issued 8 certifications of results; and has had filed with it for hearing 13 new cases.

The board, which is composed of L. G. Llehliter, chairman, and Harry Gifford, recently appointed by Governor James, still has one vacancy, but has speeded up its activities to clear the docket before handing up that its work may be placed on a current basis, which will permit a prompt handling of all cases. Never it is in the future, and permit decisions to be issued in a shorter period of time than heretofore.

Under the amendments to the State Labor Relations Act passed at the recent session of the legislature, the Secretary of Labor and Industry has been given a voice in the proceedings, but not in the decisions, under which the board will operate. Now it is and regulations of hearings before the Labor Relations Board are now being drafted and studied, and upon their completion will be released to the public.

Secretary Hines expressed himself as being pleased with the fact that the docket is being cleared up, since some of the cases have been filed but no decisions were long delayed after charges had first been filed.

A. M. HUGHES IS DEAD

Vice President of North Carolina State Federation of Labor Killed in Automobile Accident.

Wilmington, N. C. (AFLWNS).—A. M. Hughes, vice president of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor and member of the Advisory Council for the North Carolina Unemployment Compensation Commission, died Tuesday, July 2, as the result of an automobile accident suffered sometime ago. His death occurred in a local hospital, and the body was carried to Washington, D. C., for burial in the Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Hughes, a member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church, had long been a resident of Wilmington.

Surviving him are his widow and mother. He was a World War Veteran.

Mr. Hughes was a member of the Carpenters' Union. He was 41 years old.

10,600,000 ARE HIT BY UNEMPLOYMENT

(Continued From Page 1)

June 1939) has regained half its decline.

Employment of Union Members Improves

"Trade union figures for June continue to show that trade unionists have fared far better than workers in general. Unemployment of union members is almost back to 1937 levels. Our weighted figures show: In June, 1937, 8.6 per cent of the members were out of work; by June, 1938, unemployment was up to 16.3 per cent but by June, 1939, only 10.0 per cent were still unemployed. Building trades and printing trades show only one or two per cent of the 1937 level, as are also the majority in manufacturing and service industries. Railroad trades members have fared worst of all, with 17 per cent of work now compared to 9 per cent in June, 1937. Railroad workers have 6 per cent out of work compared to 3.4 per cent in 1937; and professionals (chiefly musicians and actors) have 3 per cent more unemployed than in 1937. Nonunion workers have shown a decline of only one or two per cent of the 1937 level, as are also the majority in manufacturing and service industries. Railroad trades members have fared worst of all, with 17 per cent of work now compared to 9 per cent in June, 1937. Railroad workers have 6 per cent out of work compared to 3.4 per cent in 1937; and professionals (chiefly musicians and actors) have 3 per cent more unemployed than in 1937. Nonunion workers have shown a decline of only one or two per cent of the 1937 level, as are also the majority in manufacturing and service industries. Building and printing trades show the greatest declines.

"The progress of trade union recovery, however, has been steady each month for more than a year, with the exception of January when winter unemployment is a slight rise in unemployment.

"WPA rolls have shown a decline of almost 500,000 since last December and 2,594,000 were depending on this source of income in the week of June 7. Relief rolls have shown less decline, and our estimate for May, 1,-800,000 on relief, is about the same as that of December, 1938."

PATRONAGE OF UNION LABEL FIRMS URGED

Sure Way to Raise Wage Levels and Provide Jobs for American Workers, Dowd Says.

Boston, Mass. (AFLWNS).—"Labor unionists are obligated to manufacturers who recognize labor unions," declared James A. Dowd, recording secretary of the Union Label Section of the Boston Central Labor Union, in a statement emphasizing the importance of all union members, their families and friends of organized labor generally patronizing only those establishments of L. unions and have agreements with them.

"We cannot expect industry to accept collective bargaining agreements and the wage levels and standards that are made under union conditions," Mr. Dowd said. "We owe it to those who labor to cooperate in buying the merchandise upon which the union label is displayed.

"If members of labor unions, their families and friends will patronize only those establishments which have union labor, the wage levels and standards established. We must organize to the unorganized industry.

"The Union Label Section appeals to all Americans to buy union made and American made products. Also, we would like to know how to create jobs for the unemployed workers, if you would like to aid in raising wage levels of union workers, and if you would like to aid in raising wage levels of union workers, and if you would like to help create jobs for better times to America, then buy union label, union made products and union service."

BIG UNION LABEL SHOW HELD AT WICHITA FALLS

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The union label show recently held in Wichita Falls, Texas, in connection with the 25th anniversary of the A. F. of L. Trades and Labor Council of that city was a big success, with 100 booths filled by locally known manufacturers and local unions. The auditoriums filling a large building which was leased for the occasion.

In reviewing the exposition, the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor said:

"The best features of the show were the various union labels displayed by local unions. The Coca-Cola Bottle Blowers showed over one hundred styles of bottles and jars. The Tobacco Workers were well represented. Plumbing supplies and all kinds of building materials were on display as well as clothing, wearing apparel, printing, paints, wall papers, radios, refrigerators, foods, drugs and many other products. All union services were represented at booths.

"The local newspapers printed much praise of the manner in which the show was handled. Newspapers filled the halls from the time the doors were opened until they were closed.

"In speaking of the occasion T. M. Urschel, secretary-treasurer of the Trades and Labor Council, said:

"We demonstrated that union labor and union industry can work daily life of Wichita Falls, and we have been commended by several public officials for the manner in which our union label show. There is no question but what we shall make it an annual affair. We recommend this idea of union label exhibits to union labor councils, for because we are confident that it will create better feeling among business men, manufacturers, and organized labor."

WIREMEN'S SECRETARY SURVIVES OPERATION

Chicago, Ill. (AFLWNS).—W. L. Allen, international secretary-treasurer of the Commercial Telegraphers Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, is recovering from a very serious operation performed July 5 at Portsmouth Community Hospital, Chicago. Frank B. Powers, president of the union, said that, while Mr. Allen is not out of danger, he was resting comfortably. Both the gall bladder and appendix were removed."

A. F. L. Takes WPA Wage Cut To the President and Congress

(Continued From Page 1)

turing into other fields in competition with free enterprise, then in our opinion, the country would be in a worse plight in the establishment and development of a labor policy. Let us all tend to raise the standards of life and work rather than to lower them and improve our wage earners.

Congress Urged to Re-enact Prevailing Wage Rate Provision

"There is a well established method for the redress of grievances—the right of protest; the right of petition; the right of appeal to Congress and to the people.

"This conference is aware that the Congress is now in session.

"In behalf of your committee representing your committee recommends that the president of the American Federation of Labor be authorized to appoint two to appoint a representative committee whose membership shall include the president of the American Federation of Labor, the presidents of the several departments of the American Federation of Labor, and such other officers of national and international unions as he may deem advisable.

Roosevelt to Get Action of Conference

"We likewise recommend that this conference consider this action of our conference and of this declaration and petition to the President of the United States, to the members of the Senate, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to urge immediate and favorable consideration in this effort to right these grievous wrongs and injustices.

"It is our further recommendation that upon adjournment of this conference the delegates here present from unions in attendance visit their respective United States Senators and Congressmen, and call upon them the necessity for immediate and favorable action on this petition. Then, too, we recommend that copies of this statement of grievances and petition to the President be forwarded promptly to all central labor unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labor for their information and guidance."

International Federation of Trade Unions Bans Russian Labor Group

(Continued From Page 1)

Russia but it also adopted a resolution sponsored by Robert J. Watt, conforming to the decision taken by the International Federation's General Council when it broke off negotiations with the Russians last year. The British delegation voted with the resolution, the only votes against it being those of the Mexicans, with the French and Norwegians abstaining.

Aggressor Nations Condemned

The Congress adopted five other resolutions. One of them, condemning the aggressions by totalitarian States, also expressed the hope that the French-Anglo-Soviet pact would be realized as quickly as possible in the interests of "peace and freedom."

The delegates from Finland, Denmark and Poland protested against voting because of mention of the pact.

Jewish Persecution Scored

Another resolution condemned the persecution of the Jews and asked I. F. T. U. to facilitate emigration to Palestine.

The Congress dealt with hours of work, the I. F. T. U.'s economic activity, and expressed sympathy with the Chinese in their struggle against Japan.

All the officers were re-elected, and the Congress authorized the creation of an additional vice-presidency for a representative of an overseas country.

American Federation of Government Employes Urges Dismissal Wage For Federal Workers

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—Representative Shafer of Michigan has introduced a bill urged by the American Federation of Government Employes, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, to provide protection for employes of the Federal Government who may be affected by the reorganization of the Executive Departments now in progress. Under the bill dismissed employes would be paid a dismissal wage amounting to half their salary for a period of six months.

The Shafer bill is entitled "A Bill for the benefit of employes involuntarily separated from the service of the United States." The dismissal wage sections follow:

"Any employe of the Government of the United States who shall have been employed a period of years or more in a position in the competitive classified civil service or who shall have completed not less than three years of service in an unclassified or excepted position shall, upon involuntary separation from the service of the United States other than for cause due to his own misconduct, continue to be compensated for a period of six months at a rate equal to one-half the rate of pay which he was receiving at the time of separation: Provided, That this separation compensation by the discontinuance of the ... so compensated (1) accepts reappointment to the service of the United States, or (2) declines an offer of suitable reemployment in the service of the United States, or (3) accepts private employment which is permanent.

"The names of such employes shall, when they have been designated for separation by the head of the agency in which they are employed, be reported to the Civil Service Commission as soon as practicable and they shall be certified for reemployment in a position comparable to that which they were separated, in the same or some other agency."

A. F. L. AUTO WORKERS GAIN PAY BOOST PACT

Detroit, Mich. (AFLWNS).—The International Union United Automobile Workers of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, announced the negotiation of an agreement between the Sanitary Tinning Company, Cleveland, Ohio, and Local No. 301. The agreement includes the closed shop, plant-wide seniority, five-cent increase on minimum rate, two-cent increase on all rates, and vacation with pay.

It was stated that an agreement had also been signed between the Globe-Wernicke Company, of Norwood, Ohio, and Local No. 382.

BRITISH AGED ASK PENSION INCREASE

Portsmouth, England (AFLWNS).—That increases of pensions to one pound a week was demanded by old-age pensioners who marched through the streets of Portsmouth, a number of men over eighty years of age were among the marchers.

They braved heavy rain and a cold wind, carrying banners and slogans, "Here are the pensions, now old men of England," read one of these.

BRIEF CASE FIRM SIGNED UP BY LUGGAGE WORKERS

Jersey City, N. J. (AFLWNS).—The firm of Thomas's, Inc., brief case manufacturers, 304 Ninth Street, Jersey City, has signed a contract with Luggage Workers Local No. 62 of the International Ladies' Hand Bag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Under the contract, the workers gained a reduction in hours from 44 to 40 hours per week, a general increase in wages of $1 per week, and a union shop.

The contract also provides for the following minimum scales: $32 per week for machinists, $24 per week for helpers, and $16 per week for beginners. Workers now receiving less than the minimum will gradually be built up to scale.

The contract was concluded as a result of peaceful negotiations between the union and the firm after a majority of the workers had been enrolled by the union.

The representatives of the union who negotiated with the firm and concluded the agreement were Jack Wieselburg, international organizer, and Charles Mutter, first vice president of the international.